

Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

Long Green and Kanés Rds., near Glen Arm, MD

October 14, 2018

Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:10 am

Large print hymnals are available see an usher

This room is equipped with a sound loop for the hearing impaired

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”

(Matthew 5:4)

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am) “Sing praise to God who...” 59

Announcements

Prelude

*Call to Worship (NRSV) Psalm 30:10-12

One - Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me!

All - O Lord, be my helper!”

One - You have turned my mourning into dancing;

All - you have taken off my sackcloth

and clothed me with joy,

One - so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.

All - O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

*Hymn “O bless the Lord, my soul” 80

*Opening Prayer

Unison Confession 698

Scripture (CEV) Jeremiah 31:10-14

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory (Please sign the attendance pad and pass it on)

Scripture (NRSV) John 16:19-21

Sharing a joy, a concern, a word of testimony or praise
(please be brief, and aware of God’s listening presence)

Hymn “Sweet hour of prayer” 11

Prayer

Scripture (NRSV) 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Message “*Good grief*” Pastor Pete

*Hymn “When peace, like a river” 336

*Benediction

*Postlude

*Rise in body or in spirit

* * * * *

sermon is posted at

<http://rockhay.tripod.com/sermons/2018/18-10-14.htm>

Gathered together to worship God

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am)

“Sing praise to God who reigns above”

1. Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul is filled,
and every faithless murmur stilled.
To God all praise and glory!
2. What in almighty power was made,
God's gracious mercy keepeth.
By morning glow or evening shade,
God's watchful eye never sleepeth.
Within the shelter of God's might,
lo! all is just, and all is right.
To God all praise and glory!
3. Our God is never far away,
throughout all grief distressing,
an ever-present help and stay,
our peace, and joy, and blessing.
As with a mother's tender hand,
God gently leads the chosen band.
To God all praise and glory!

4. Then all my gladsome way along,
I sing aloud thy praises,
that all may hear the grateful song
my voice unwearied raises:
be joyful in the Lord, my heart!
Both soul and body, bear your part!
To God all praise and glory!

Hymnal #59
words by Johann J. Schütz, 1673
translated by Francis E. Cox 1864, alt.
music adapted from GENEVA 138, 1547

Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship

Please rise and join in our Call to Worship.
(pause)

One - Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me!

All - O Lord, be my helper!"

One - You have turned my mourning into dancing;

**All - you have taken off my sackcloth
and clothed me with joy,**

One - so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.

**All - O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you
forever.**

Psalm 30:10-12 from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*,
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National Council of the Churches of Christ
in the United States of America.
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“O bless the Lord, my soul”

1. O bless the Lord, my soul! God's grace to you proclaim,
and all that is within me join to bless God's holy name.
2. God clothes you with great love,
upholds you with the truth,
and like the eagle God renews the vigor of your youth.
3. Love's mercy bear in mind
when you are plagued with wrong.
God's anger will be slow to rise;
Love's patience stretches long.

4. God pardons all your sin, prolongs your feeble breath,
heals all your sickness,
every pain, and saves you from your death.

5. Then bless God's holy name,
whose grace has made you whole,
whose loving-kindness crowns your days;
O bless the Lord, my soul!

#80 in Hymnal: A Worship Book
Words by James Montgomery, 1819;
altered by Jean Wiebe Janzen, © 1991
tune: “Vigil,” *St. Alban's Tune Book*, 1865

Opening Prayer

There is no way that we can really bless you, O God, no way that we can truly become a blessing to others, without your blessing first becoming a part of us. Behind the scenes you are at work, O Lord, blessing this world. For the wrong, of which we are so often a part, we deserve your curse. But you bless us, instead. Thank you!

We ask your blessing, your active presence among us today. Work in us and through us. Allow us to see the evidence of your involvement. O bless the Lord. May all that is within us bless your holy name. In Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Please be seated.

Unison Confession

In the back of your hymnal
is a confession for us to speak in unison.

Please turn to #698

(pause)

Forgive me my sins, O Lord.
Forgive me the sins of my youth
 and the sins of my age,
the sins of my soul
 and the sins of my body,
my secret and my whispering sins,
the sins I have done to please myself
 and the sins I have done to please others.
Forgive those sins which I know
 and the sins which I do not know
Forgive them, Lord;
forgive them in all your great goodness,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN

Hymnal #698
by Lancelot Andrewes, ca. 1600
The New Book of Christian Prayers,
© 1986 Tony Castle. Edited by Tony Castle.
Crossroad/Continuum Publishing Company.

Jeremiah 31:10-14

We entered worship with a Psalm.
Listen now to the prophet Jeremiah
as a response to our confession.

(pause)

*¹⁰ Listen to me, you nations nearby or across the sea.
I scattered the people of Israel,
but I will gather them again.
I will protect them like a shepherd guarding a flock;*

*¹¹ I will rescue them from enemies
who could overpower them.*

*¹² My people will come to Mount Zion and celebrate;
their faces will glow because of my blessings.
I'll give them grain, grapes, and olive oil,
as well as sheep and cattle.
Israel will be prosperous and grow
like a garden with plenty of water.*

*¹³ Young women and young men,
together with the elderly,
will celebrate and dance,
because I will comfort them
and turn their sorrow into happiness.*

*¹⁴ I will bless my people
with more food than they need,
and the priests will enjoy the choice cuts of meat.
I, the LORD, have spoken.*

from the *Contemporary English Version*®
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Responding with Offerings

We have been, will be, and are blessed by God, even when we are not aware of this blessing. As the offering plates are passed, lift up your own prayer for eyes to better see what God is doing, so that you might respond with an open heart and willing hands.

Ushers?

Offertory

John 16:19-21

Moving toward a time of sharing prayer requests and joys, let's turn toward a passage from the gospel of John where Jesus speaks of grief to come for his disciples. May we hear in them courage and hope.

(pause)

*¹⁹ Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Are you discussing among yourselves what I meant when I said, 'A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me'?"
²⁰ Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice; you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy. ²¹ When a woman is in labor, she has pain, because her hour has come. But when her child is born, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy of having brought a human being into the world.*

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Sharing a joy, a concern,
a word of testimony or praise

“Sweet hour of prayer”

1. Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer,
that calls me from a world of care,
and bids me at my Father’s throne
make all my wants and wishes known;
in seasons of distress and grief,
my soul has often found relief,
and oft escaped the tempter’s snare,
by thy return, sweet hour of prayer!
2. Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,
the joys I feel, the bliss I share,
of those whose anxious spirits burn
with strong desires for thy return!
With such I hasten to the place
where God my Savior shows His face,
and gladly take my station there,
and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!
3. Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,
thy wings shall my petition bear
to Him whose truth and faithfulness
engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since He bids me seek His face,
Believe His Word and trust His grace,
I’ll cast on Him my every care,
and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

Hymnal #11
words are anonymous, 1845
music by William B. Bradbury, 1859

Prayer

Through and beyond this “sweet hour of prayer,”
O Hidden God,
in mystery and silence
you are present in our lives,
bringing new life out of death,
hope out of despair.
We thank you that you do not leave us alone
but labor to make us whole.
Help us to perceive your unseen hand
in the unfolding of our lives,
and to attend to the gentle guidance of your Spirit,
that we may know the joy of your love
and rest in your peace, AMEN

Hymnal #745
by Ruth C. Duck, from Bread for the Journey,
ed. Ruth C. Duck, copyright © 1981, altered.
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1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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Message

“Good grief”

(a video)

Hymn #143

“When peace, like a river”

1. When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea-billows roll,
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well with my soul.
Refrain: It is well (it is well), with my soul (with my soul).
it is well, it is well with my soul.
2. Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blessed assurance control,
that Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
Refrain: It is well (it is well), with my soul (with my soul).
it is well, it is well with my soul.
3. Redeemed! Oh, the bliss of this glorious thought,
my sin -- not in part, but the whole -
is nailed to his cross, and I bear it no more,
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
Refrain: It is well (it is well), with my soul (with my soul).
it is well, it is well with my soul.
4. And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trumpet shall sound, and the Lord shall descend,
“Even so,” it is well with my soul.
Refrain: It is well (it is well), with my soul (with my soul).
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Hymnal #336

words by Horatio G Spafford, 1876, alt.

music by Philip P. Bliss, 1876

Benediction

You are blessed by God today.
You didn't "earn" this blessing.
Like grace, God gives it freely.
Live out this blessing!

Postlude